



International Ecosystem Management Partnership  
国际生态系统管理伙伴计划



2016

ANNUAL  
REPORT





## **A UN ENVIRONMENT COLLABORATING CENTRE IN THE SOUTH AND FOR THE SOUTH**

The UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP) is the first UN Environment Collaborating Centre in the South and for the South mobilizing science to support policy setting for sustainable ecosystem management in all developing countries. It has been mandated to support UN Environment's Ecosystem Management and Climate Change Sub-programmes, promoting a green economy and enhancing South-South Cooperation.

### **OUR VISION**

Enhance the role of ecosystem management as a vital approach to working with nature for a world with a green economy.

### **OUR MISSION**

To provide science, policy, and capacity support to developing countries to integrate ecosystem management approaches into national policies and development plans to enhance the delivery of ecosystem services for human well-being.



*"UNEP-IEMP needs to be a true global centre in the South and for the South providing technical and policy support to developing countries and promoting ecological civilization."*

**Prof. Chunli Bai**  
President  
Chinese Academy of Sciences



*"UNEP-IEMP is a foundational pillar of UNEP's South-South Cooperation initiative that enables UNEP to deliver environmental capacity building and technology support to regions of the South."*

**Mr. Achim Steiner**  
Executive Director  
United Nations Environment Programme



*"The Ministry of Environmental Protection will support the host Chinese organization, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, for the establishment of UNEP-IEMP."*

**H.E. Shengxian Zhou**  
Minister  
Ministry of Environmental Protection

## UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership: Milestones

**2010:** The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) kicked off the process to strengthen their collaboration to enhance ecosystem management in developing countries. The collaboration was seen as a coming together of two agents of change – China as one of the most important emerging economies in the world, possessing vast experience, knowledge and technology on ecosystem management, and UN Environment as the leading agency in the United Nations system on environmental issues.

**2011:** UN Environment's International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP) was officially launched as an international programme, co-sponsored by UN Environment and CAS, with political support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) of China.

**2012:** After one year of operation, an agreement was signed by UN Environment and CAS that transformed UNEP-IEMP from an international programme to the first UN Environment collaborating centre "in the South and for the South".

**2013:** UN Environment Governing Council recognized and blessed UNEP-IEMP. Entering its development phase (2013-2015), the Centre held its first Steering Committee meeting and launched its first full-sized GEF project Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation (EbA South), a joint initiative of UN Environment and the National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC).

**2014:** UNEP-IEMP turned a new leaf in advancing the global agenda on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC), notably through facilitating the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between China and UN Environment. The first SSCCC Forum was organized on the sidelines of COP 20 of UNFCCC in Lima.

**2015:** UNEP-IEMP completed the development of its flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL), which was reviewed by its Science Advisory Group (SAG) and approved by its Steering Committee (SC) in-principle.

**2016:** CEL approved by the Steering Committee and launched at COP 22 of UNFCCC by UN Environment Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw in the presence of several ministers, heads of UN and government agencies. Also, UNEP-IEMP enters its fully-operational phase with re-structured offices.

## UN ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP (UNEP-IEMP) STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) AND SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEMBERS

### CO-CHAIRS:

- **Mr. Tieniu Tan**, *Vice President, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Co-chair SC)*
- **Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw**, *Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment (Co-chair SC)*
- **Mr. Yiyu Chen**, *Chairman Life Science Division, Chinese Academy of Sciences and immediate past President of National Natural Science Foundation of China (Co-chair SAG)*
- **Dr. Arthur Hanson**, *International Chief Advisor and Member, China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development and former President of International Institute for Sustainable Development (Co-chair SAG)*

### MEMBERS:

- **Dr. Bojie Fu**, *Professor of Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Academician of Chinese Academic of Sciences and Fellow of the Academy of Sciences for Developing World (SAG member)*
- **Dr. Gisela Alonso**, *President of the Cuban Agency of Environment and Honor Member of the Cuban Academy of Sciences (SAG member)*
- **Mr. Haisheng Li**, *Director General of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environment Protection of China*
- **Dr. Kathy MacKinnon**, *Vice-Chair of the Convention on Biological Diversity of IUCN/WCPA and Vice-Chair on Climate Change, Board Member of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Member of the Supervisory Council of Wetlands International (SAG member)*
- **Mr. Masataka Watanabe**, *Chair of Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network*
- **Dr. Qinghua Xu**, *Deputy Secretary General of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (SAG member)*
- **Dr. Salif Diop**, *Water Specialist, Member of the African Academy of Sciences and Member of The World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Sciences in the Developing Countries (SAG member)*
- **Mr. Wei Su**, *Director General of Climate Change Department, National Development and Reform Commission of China*
- **Mr. Yi Liu**, *Deputy Director General of Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences*
- **Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse Navarro**, *International President of World Wild Fund for Nature and the former Minister of Environment of Ecuador*
- **Mr. Zakri Abdul Hamid**, *Chair of Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*
- **Dr. Xiaoming Jin**, *Director General of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, China*
- **Mr. Shan Jiang**, *Director General of Department of American and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, China*

## A word from the Director



**Jian Liu**  
Director

UNEP-IEMP is on a transformational path making sound progress on many fronts with the generous support of its Steering Committee and the Science Advisory Group.

2016 was a remarkable year for the Centre in many aspects. First, we had the privilege of greeting Mr. Erik Sohleim the new Executive Director of UN Environment in Beijing during his first official mission to China. His vision of engaging China to lead the South-South Cooperation endeavor empowers UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership even more, and we will dedicate all our efforts to work with people and institutions in impoverished and most vulnerable settings, with assistance from both Northern and Southern partners. Second, UN Environment's Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, announced the decade-long (2016-2025) flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL) at COP 22, in Marrakech, Morocco. CEL, supported by China, is designed to assist countries in the global South with effective delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. Third, the Centre established its credibility in the realms of operations and entered its fully-operational phase with four restructured offices. We continue on this journey and are successfully delivering services in 17 countries across Asia and Africa.

Many other highlights are worth mentioning. We successfully organized the Advanced Training Workshop on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the Arid Areas as part of the capacity building initiatives announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping during COP 21 in Paris.

We also fostered good cooperation between upper and lower reaches of the Greater Mekong Subregion through the UN Environment- China Trust Fund project on enhancing capacity-building on ecosystem management in six participating countries.

The Centre continues to implement the joint UN Environment-NDRC GEF project EbA South and also organized The High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC) on the sidelines of COP 22. None of this would have been possible without the steadfast support of our partners. It is their faith and commitment towards UNEP-IEMP that truly inspires us and lends the affirmation that we need to push even further. As the Centre begin its sixth year of operations, and celebrate past achievements, it is important to be cognisant of the tasks yet to be completed or begun. The major goal of 2017 will be to make CEL operational and successful by developing a business model and roadmap under the guidance of UN Environment and Chinese Academy of Sciences; build strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders; develop a wider portfolio of projects, supported by national and international funding programmes.

As I embark on a new journey as the Chief Scientist of UN Environment, I am deeply grateful to each one of you for your extraordinary contribution and invaluable support to UNEP-IEMP, and to me personally. I have found a great deal of satisfaction establishing and leading the Centre since its inception.

I am confident that under the leadership of my successor, the dedicated staff will continue to be a 'torch-bearer' in steering the sustainability agenda in the global South in 2017 and beyond.





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## SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

The Second Science Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting was held on June 28, 2016. It was co-chaired by Mr. Yiyu Chen, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Dr. Salif Diop, The Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Fellow.

### SAG meeting objectives

- Review and comment on the Annual Report 2015 and Work Plan 2016, as well as the revised version of the Biennial Work Plan 2016-2017
- Provide further comment on the final revised draft of the decade-long flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL) that received no objection by the Steering Committee in 2015, and possible recommendation to the SC for adoption.
- Take note and provide guidance on new initiatives under CEL- the Silk Road Ecological Survey and Assessment (SRSA), Green Climate Fund (GCF) Project for Ecosystem-based Mitigation in China 2nd phase of GEF EbA-South Project and Adaptation Fund project for EbA in the GMS.
- Take note and provide guidance on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC) Forum that was established jointly by UN Environment and NDRC as well as other partners.
- Review and comment on the improved delivery mechanism.

### SAG meeting outcomes

- Acknowledged and appreciated Centre's achievements of the past year.
- Recommended to better reflect the niche of CEL that ecosystem management is the core, livelihoods improvement the objective, and climate change the driving force.
- Focus on strengthening partnership building, developing policy recommendations for governments, building a database with partners, designing and building globally well-known brands under CEL (like South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum).

Recommendations from the SAG meeting were presented at the meeting of the SC for final recommendations, consideration and approval.

# UNEP-IEMP 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting

June 29, 2016

Beijing, China





## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Steering Committee (SC) held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on 29 June, 2016 following the 2nd meeting of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) on 28 June. It was co-chaired by Mr. Jinghua Cao, Director General, Bureau of International Cooperation, Chinese Academy of Sciences (on behalf of Tieniu TAN) and Ms. Mette Wilkie, Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UN Environment (on behalf of Ibrahim Thiaw).

SC lauded UNEP-IEMP's 2015 annual progress which was delivered based on the approved 2015 work plan and Mid-Term Development Strategy. The year 2016 marks UNEP-IEMP's entering its fully operational phase after its launch in 2011 and moving from a 'project-based' to 'programme-based' Centre. The annual work plan 2016 and the biennial work plan 2016-2017 were reviewed by the SC. The SC also reviewed the CEL framework which is aimed to assist the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement in an integrated manner in the developing countries. CEL focuses on the nexus of climate, ecosystems and livelihoods covering drylands, river basins and coastal ecosystems and will take a three-phased approach.

### Key Decisions

- Endorsed the Annual Work Plan for 2016 and took note of the revised Biennial Work Plan 2016-2017, focusing on the implementation of CEL.
- Evaluated the Annual Progress Report 2015 as meeting expectations satisfactorily.
- Approved CEL and requested updating the programme document according to comments made by the Steering Committee.



YEAR  
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REVIEW

## FEB 2016

### **EbA South missions to Nepal, Mauritania, Seychelles**

Field missions were conducted to facilitate EbA implementation and support the national teams in the pilot countries- Nepal, Mauritania and Seychelles.

## APRIL 2016

### **UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership hosts the South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Forum Scoping Meeting**

The meeting was attended by senior officials and high-level representatives of international organizations. Delegates discussed the newly proposed concept and structure of the SSCCC Forum, with the view to transform it as a standing policy advisory mechanism with new streams of activities, under three main elements: engaging countries politically, science-policy-action, climate finance .

## JUNE 2016

### **Fourth Steering Committee approved the flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods**

CEL framework was approved by SC. It will assist the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement in an integrated manner in the developing countries. CEL focuses on the nexus of climate, ecosystems and livelihoods covering drylands, river basins and coastal ecosystems and will follow a three-phased approach.

## JULY 2016

### **UNEP-IEMP enters its fully operational phase**

UNEP-IEMP transitioned to a 'programme-based' Centre with four re-structured offices-Operations, Internationally-funded Programme, China-funded Programme and a Research Unit.

## SEPTEMBER 2016

### **UN Environment Executive Director Mr. Erik Sohlheim first official visit to China**

Hailed UNEP-IEMP's progress and expressed full support to its South-South Cooperation endeavor during the town-hall meeting in Beijing. He also mentioned that protecting ecosystems, tackling pollution, green finance will remain the key priorities for UN Environment.

## SEPTEMBER 2016

### **Closing of first UN Environment China-Trust Fund Project**

Capacity building and consultative workshops were successfully conducted in six GMS countries under the first UN-Environment China-Trust funded project "South-South Capacity Building for Ecosystem Management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)." A high-level workshop marked the culmination of the project bringing together policy makers, primary stakeholders and scientific communities.

## OCTOBER 2016

### **Advanced Training Workshop on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Arid Areas**

Co-organized by UNEP-IEMP and the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network, 25 participants from 14 developing countries attended the workshop. The workshop was successful in forging partnerships on

joint research project application on EbA etc.

## NOVEMBER 2016

### **Flagship Programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL) launched at COP 22 of UNFCCC**

UN Environment announced CEL at COP 22. It aims to seize the power of integration of the SDGs. A major South-South initiative, CEL will focus on the nexus of climate change, ecosystems and livelihoods and will assist countries in the global South with effective delivery of the SDGs and climate targets.

## NOVEMBER 2016

### **The High-Level Forum on South-South operation Climate Change at COP 22**

Leaders and experts hail the growing importance of South-South Cooperation for climate action. EbA South was lauded by several ministers at the Forum. It was co-organized by the United Nations Southern Climate Partnership Incubator (SCPI) Initiative and UNEP-IEMP.

## DECEMBER 2016

### **Dr. Jian Liu, Director, UNEP-IEMP appointed as the Chief Scientist of UN Environment**

The Executive Director of UN Environment appointed Dr. Jian Liu, Director, UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP) as the Chief Scientist. He will be re-locating to the headquarters in Nairobi to assume his new responsibility.



Photo Credit: Yis





# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

# UN Environment Executive Director Mr. Erik Sohlheim's First Official Mission to China

During his first official mission to China, Executive Director held a town-hall meeting with the UN Environment China team on September 7, 2016. Mr. Shigang Zhang, Country Coordinator of UN Environment China Office and Dr. Jian Liu, Director of UNEP-IEMP delivered a joint presentation highlighting the work of both offices. Fifty-five members from both teams participated in the meeting.

Dr. Jian Liu gave a brief introduction about UNEP-IEMP, the first UN Environment collaborating center in the South and for the South working under the supervision of UN Environment's Policy Division. The Centre is also strongly supported by the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN), one of world's largest ecological network on monitoring, research, demonstration and policy support.

He also briefed Mr. Sohlheim about the CEL flagship programme. After 2 years of development, the programme has now been approved by the Steering Committee (SC) of UNEP-IEMP and is a part of UN Environment Policy Division's portfolio of work. After noting UNEP-IEMP's work covering 4 regions and 17 countries and the newly approved CEL, he hailed the progress made and expressed his unstinted support to the Centre in its South-South cooperation endeavor by closely working with China.

The Executive Director provided his views on CEL, which included:

a) delivering environmental solutions to reduce poverty (Sustainable Development Goal 1) ; b) Including pollution control - air, soil and water; c) promoting climate smart agriculture, to protect forest and wildlife, and to be more effective and productive.

He urged all the countries to work together to fight environmental issues and expressed confidence that there is no limit of what can be achieved if we join hands for a sustainable future.

## Snapshot

- Stated that China will be the 'absolute centre' of what he as an Executive Director would like to do
- Mentioned that protecting ecosystems, tackling pollution, green finance to remain the key priorities
- Applauded Chinese leadership support on the Paris agreement, eco-civilization and green finance
- Asked colleagues to communicate regularly in 'easy-to understand language' ; work closely with people to drive change and develop a solution-oriented approach at work

## Executive Director on main environmental issues in China and UN Environment-at-large

- Protecting ecosystems for future generations
- Tackling pollution and expressed confidence that China will be at the forefront in solving this issue
- Need for green finance and its key role in fighting environmental issues
- Oceans to be a priority and UN Environment; expects China to be a leader in this domain as well.



A) UN Environment China team with Executive Director Mr. Erik Sohleim B) Prof. Linxiu Zhang, Co-Director, UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership welcoming Mr. Erik Sohleim at the town-hall meeting C) The Executive Director delivering the keynote address at the UN Environment China Townhall Meeting D) Participants during an interaction with the Executive Director. Photo: Jianhua Sun

## Decade-long flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL) launched at COP 22

UN Environment launched CEL supported by China and designed to assist countries in the global South with effective delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate targets while improving the livelihoods of their people and protecting their ecosystems.

CEL aims to seize the ‘**power of integration**’ of the SDGs, and will be led by UN Environment’s International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP). UN Environment Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, joined by several ministers and heads of UN and government agencies announced the flagship programme during The High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change at the Marrakech climate conference - COP 22 of UNFCCC. The new programme is a crucial element of long-term cooperation between China and UN Environment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. CEL will draw on the globally relevant knowledge, expertise and other resources of its core team and network of international partners. The Chinese Ecosystem Research Network, part of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and one of the largest national ecosystem monitoring and research network in the world will provide technical support to the programme.

The flagship programme aims to protect the most fragile ecosystems, such as drylands, river basins and coastal zones in Asia, West Asia and Africa. It will be rolled out in three phases: Assessment (2016-2018), Development (2019-2021) and Scaling up (2022-2025).

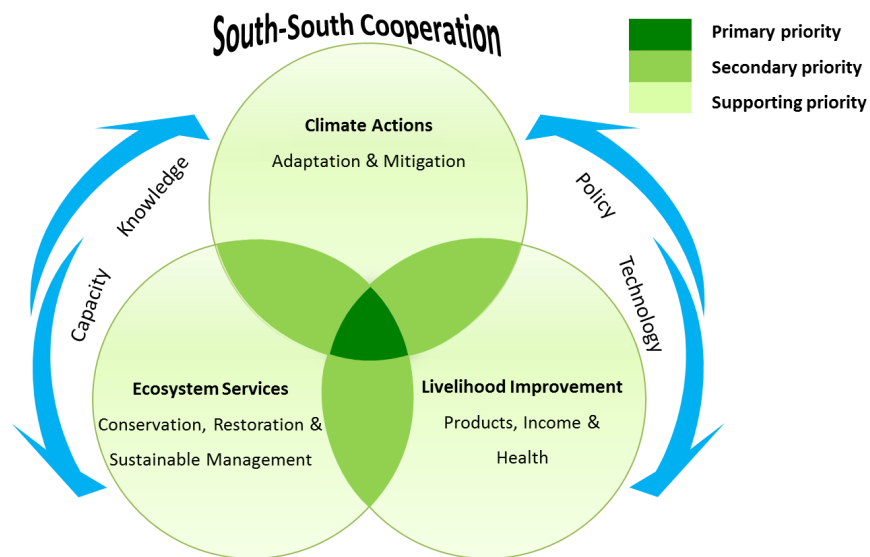
*“It’s the poor in developing countries who are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change on the ecosystems they depend on to for food, shelter and livelihoods. That is why I am delighted to announce the new 10-year programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods along the Silk Road. It will not just benefit national targets, it will benefit real people.”*

**Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment**



Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment announcing CEL at COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco. Photo: Jialin He

## How will CEL work?



Developing countries, UN&SDGs, Scientific community, SSC initiatives...

Fig 1: CEL framework depicting the nexus of climate, ecosystems, and livelihoods

*Primary priority is the nexus of climate change, ecosystems and livelihoods, inter alia, how to promote synergies of ecological conservation and livelihood development in the context of climate change. Secondary priorities are the paired interactions between climate change and ecosystems, climate change and livelihoods, and ecosystem and livelihoods. Stand-alone thematic issues of climate change, ecosystems and livelihoods will also be supported.*

The first phase of the programme will see a thorough survey of three types of “hotspots”- fragile ecosystems, biodiversity-rich areas and communities vulnerable to climate change and ecosystem degradation. The survey will be focused on the countries lying along the land and sea routes of the “New Silk Road”- an international connectivity and cooperation framework proposed by China. UNEP-IEMP will be providing countries with assistance in monitoring and assessment, capacity building, technology demonstration and science for policy.

*“CEL is a testimony of our determination to make a real impact and provide long-lasting assistance in improving livelihoods through ecosystem conservation and restoration, while responding to the impacts of climate change. We are committed to dedicate all our efforts to work with people and institutions in the poorest and most vulnerable settings, with assistance from both Northern and Southern partners.”*

**Dr. Jian Liu, Director, UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership**

## Unstinted support to CEL

*“I express our support and our interest in the flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods by UN Environment”*

**Amedi Camara, Minister, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania.**

*“The programme will bring significant benefits to countries like Seychelles, particularly through the work of the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which are already supporting capacity building in our country”.*

**Wills Agricole, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles**

## The High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change

Speakers at the High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC) at COP 22 of UNFCCC, top officials from UN and government agencies emphasized on the growing importance of South-South cooperation for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. They further commended China's role in reinforcing and boosting South-South cooperation (SSC).

### South-South Cooperation and the important role of China

“We need to promote South-South Cooperation more,” said Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Special Representative on Climate Change Affairs, China, calling on international organizations to act as “bridges.” Global South should enhance exchange to share best practices and communicate policies with each other so as to complement each other. Mr. Zhenhua called for developing countries to cooperate globally, and turn challenges into opportunities to progress together. “China’s initiative to spur South-South cooperation is acknowledged and much welcomed. The South-South Cooperation is “not in opposition to North-South or South-North cooperation. We want to assure that countries of the South are taking charge, that they have much to share and much to bring to each other”, said Salaheddine Mezouar, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Morocco and COP22 President.

Dr. David Nabarro, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change, UN, thanked China for its leadership and generous support to advance South-South cooperation and “for bringing together action on climate and action on sustainable development in such a decisive way.”

Speaking about SCPI, initiated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, he said it’s about making connections, leveraging knowledge, reviewing and identifying best practices to help achieve more. Speaking about SCPI, initiated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, he said it’s about making connections, leveraging knowledge, reviewing and identifying best practices to help achieve more.

*The Forum was hosted by the Governments of China and Morocco, and the United Nations. It was co-organized by the United Nations Southern Climate Partnership Incubator (SCPI) Initiative and UN Environment’s International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP).*



Dr. Jian Liu, Director, UNEP-IEMP speaking at the ‘Keynote Session: Pragmatic South-South cooperation to build the capacity of developing countries.’

Photo: Jialin He



Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Special Representative on Climate Change Affairs, China at the South-South Cooperation Forum on Climate Change. Photo: UNEP-IEMP team



UNEP-IEMP delegation at COP 22. Photo: UNEP-IEMP team

Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC said South-South cooperation has the potential to make significant contribution and is rapidly becoming an integral component of international cooperation on climate change. Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (GEF) mentioned that South-South cooperation can drive implementation rapidly forward, and it is important to seize this opportunity.

### **EbA South appreciated by the ministers**

The GEF-funded project 'Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation' (EbA South), implemented by UN Environment and executed by the National Development Reform Commission of China through Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, received appreciation and acknowledgement in the Forum's distinguished dialogue, particularly from ministers of the countries where the project is piloted. "EbA South project is an example of successful South-South Cooperation", Amedi Camara, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania. He commended the project for coupling on-the-ground action with long term research. Wills Agricole, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles praised EbA South role in enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerability, and stated it is an example of "innovative partnerships" in South-South cooperation." Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary, Ministry of Population and Environment, Nepal highlighted that the project is an example of South-South Cooperation with "concrete results." "EbA is on Pakistan's priority list for addressing climate change", said Zahid Hamid Khan, Federal Minister for Climate Change, Pakistan.

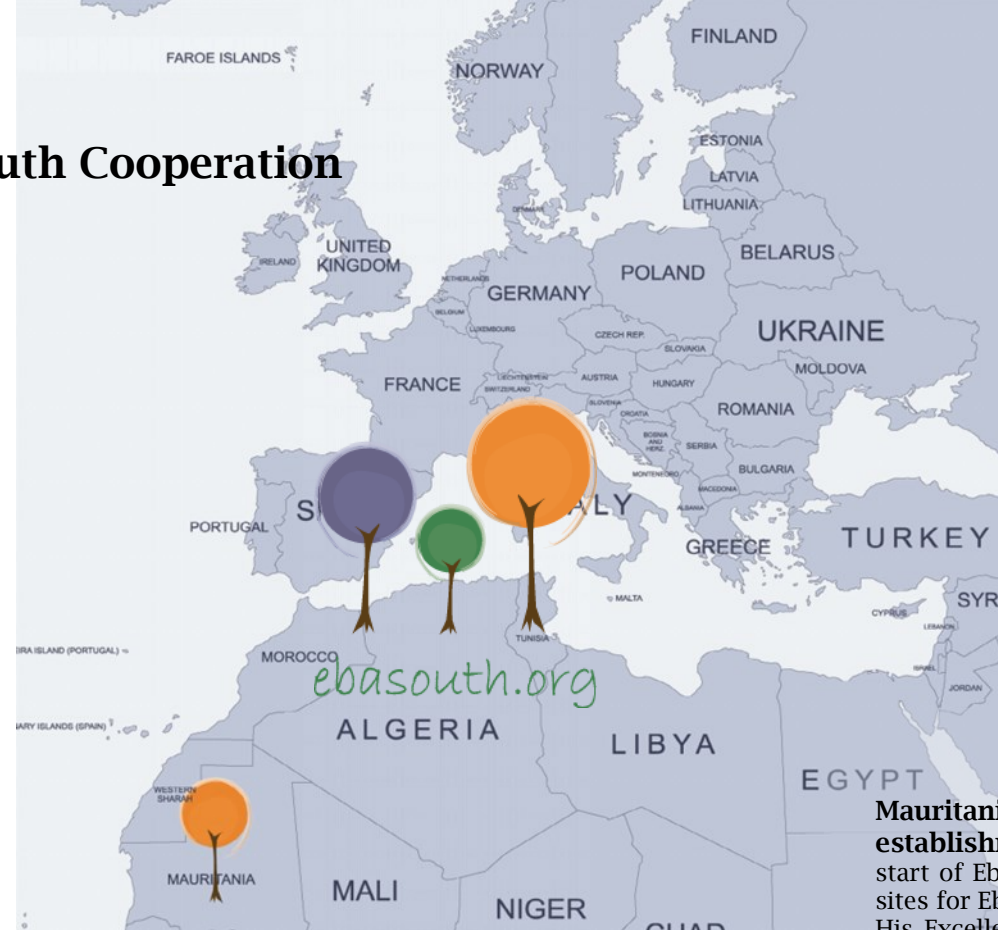
# Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation

Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation (EbA South) launched in 2013, completed its third year of operations.

Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation (EbA South) is a full sized GEF project funded through the Special Climate Change Fund. Officially known under the title “Enhancing Capacity, Knowledge, and Technology Support to Build Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Developing Countries”, the project is implemented by UN Environment and executed by the National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC) through the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The fourth EbA South Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was held on 28 September 2016 in Nepal. Chaired by UN Environment and Chinese Academy of Sciences, the PSC assessed the progress achieved, reviewed work plans and provided recommendations on the project implementation strategy. It was agreed to extend the project duration till April 2018, in order to allow the three pilot countries Mauritania, Nepal and Seychelles to complete all activities and reach their targets. Ideas for the continuation and upscaling of interventions on-the-ground were also discussed. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) of Nepal in Kathmandu and was attended by high level representatives of UN Environment, GEF, UNFCCC, the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS), and the Governments of Nepal, Mauritania and Seychelles. In his opening remarks, Dr. Bishwa Nath Oli, Secretary of MoPE, highlighted the importance of mutual learning and support from partners within the framework of South-South cooperation for implementing EbA.

Prior to the meeting, a field visit to the ‘ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari’ was also organized. Participants learned about a wide range of technologies and practices for sustainable land use and natural resources management for livelihood improvement in mountainous areas.



Fourth EbA South PSC meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal.  
Photo: EbA South

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**Seychelles- Long Term Research Programme and awareness campaign on mangrove ecosystem restoration for climate change adaptation:** The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) of Seychelles and the University of Seychelles (UniSey) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 5 August 2016 for undertaking a **long-term research programme**. This programme will provide the scientific basis to establish effective mangrove ecosystem restoration as an ecosystem-based approach to climate change adaptation. In addition, an awareness campaign on the benefits of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation has been conducted, including three school projects at the Anse Boileau Secondary School and Plaisance Secondary School, involving 65 students and 13 teachers. Not only the presentations on the concept of EbA were given, but also hands on practice sessions were organized at the project sites for them to learn how to recognize all 7 types of mangroves that are found in Seychelles, propagate and plant them.



Principal Secretary Wills Agricole and UniSey vice-chancellor Dennis Hardy at the MoU signing ceremony on Aug 5, 2016. Photo: EbA South

**Mauritania- Official Planting Campaign on multi-use desert greenbelt project to control desertification:** The official campaign marking the EbA South project operations in Benichab (Inchiri region), one of the pilot EbA interventions in Mauritania, was launched in August 2016. His Excellency Amedi Camara, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, successfully launched the Campaign. The construction of a multi-use 'green belt' in Benichab, using mainly indigenous, climate resilient plant species, will help improve infrastructure and also create new livelihood opportunities.



His Excellency Amedi Camara planting a sapling marking the official launch of EbA South Mauritania operations. Photo: EbA South

**Nepal- Long Term Research Programme and Awareness Campaign on community-based watershed restoration for climate change adaptation:** Excellent results were achieved in implementing the Long Term Research Programme and completing the 2016 awareness campaign. A monitoring site was set up in Chiti in 2016, including runoff and soil control monitoring plots and an automatic meteorological station for rainfall data collection. This will serve the purpose of helping Tribhuvan University student's research on biological and socio-economic effectiveness in response to the watershed restoration interventions in project site Lamjung District. Household surveys for assessing changes in Climate Change Vulnerability and Awareness has also been accomplished where the results show a positive increase in the communities' awareness on climate change.



Banana, bamboo and Salix plantation in Site 1 Chiti, Lamjung. Photo: EbA South

## South South Capacity Building for Ecosystem Management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)

The first UN Environment-China Trust Fund Project successfully conducted consultative and capacity building workshops in the six GMS countries, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, China, Myanmar to identify and prioritize capacity gaps in ecosystem management in the subregion.

Capacity building and awareness raising activities were also included in each workshop to strengthen ecosystem approach in their respective planning processes. Through these consultations with multiple stakeholders ranging from policy makers and local communities, the need for a regional capacity building framework in the GMS became more and more evident, highlighting the urge for transboundary cooperation in ecosystem management. The consultative and capacity building workshops culminated into a high-level workshop on ecosystem management capacity building for Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.

It brought together officials from every member country to build consensus on a framework for regional cooperation on capacity building in the GMS and agree on a framework for capacity building. The high-level workshop was co-organized by UNEP-IEMP and China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre (CAEC) and attended by several high-level officials- including Ms. Guomei Zhou, Deputy Director General of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) China; Ms. Jieqing Zhang, Deputy Director General, CAEC; Ms. Hui Xu, Director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) China and Dr. Jian Liu, Director, UNEP-IEMP. The speakers appreciated the role played by Chinese leadership in steering the Lancang-Mekong cooperation.

The high-level workshop saw participation from MEP, MFA, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) of Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, UN Environment, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), universities, international NGOs, intergovernmental organizations among others.

*UNEP-IEMP fostered good cooperation between upper and lower reaches of the Greater Mekong Subregion through the UN Environment- China Trust Fund project on enhancing capacity-building on ecosystem management in six participating GMS countries.*



Participants at the High-level Workshop marking the closing of UN Environment-China Trust Fund project. Photo: Lancang-Mekong Workshop Team

*Gratitude to UNEP-IEMP and CAEC for the efforts in hosting this meeting. The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism had been developing rapidly in recent years and now we must focus on building partnership of management system.*

**Ms. Guomei Zhou, DDG, Ministry of Environmental Protection, China**



Dr. Jian Liu with key delegates of the High-level Workshop marking the closing of UN Environment-China Trust Fund project. Photo: Lancang-Mekong Workshop Team

*The discussions of this workshop were meaningful for the Lancang-Mekong region and its ecosystem development. Look forward to a brighter future and better cooperation in the Lancang-Mekong region.*

**Ms. Hui Xu, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China**

## Key Highlights

- Acknowledged the importance of healthy and productive ecosystems for implementing the SDGs in the region
- Supported the process being undertaken to strengthen ecosystem management, capacity building and mainstreaming of ecosystem conservation
- Focused on strengthening cooperation in areas of common interests through collaborative research and joint implementation of activities
- Expanded the ecosystem management platform network for cooperation across Lancang-Mekong countries.
- Discussed that Lancang-Mekong countries should prioritize areas in creating green developmental incentive and assessment of capacities of countries to implement SDGs etc.
- Enhanced political, legal, financial, technical/field experience to create enabling conditions to further regional collaboration.

The project led intensive consultations and knowledge sharing through workshops in different countries. It was successful in cultivating good cooperation between upper and lower reaches of the GMS paving way for regional cooperation under the China-led Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism.

Owing to the encouraging response received by stakeholders in the GMS project, the team is now proposing a new project focusing on the demonstration of ecosystem-based adaptation in this subregion.

## Advanced Training Workshop on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the arid areas



Participants of the Advanced Training Workshop on EbA in Arid Areas in Beijing, China. Photo: CERN Secretariat

The ‘**Advanced Training Workshop on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Arid Areas**’ was held at Centre’s host institute, the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR). Co-organized by UNEP-IEMP and the Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN), it was a part of the training workshop series launched by National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC) for developing countries to implement the capacity building initiatives announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping during COP 21 of UNFCCC to promote South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC).

The workshop focused on the long-term monitoring and good practices of ecosystem-based adaptation in arid and semi-arid areas, climate change vulnerability assessment and resilience building, geographic information system and remote sensing applications under these themes. Thematic lectures, interactive discussions, field visits, and culture excursion were also organized during the workshop.

Twenty-five (25) participants from 14 developing countries including

Benin, Vietnam, Cameroon, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Kenya, Niger, Seychelles, Senegal, Zambia, Mongolia, Iran and Russia attended the training workshop. The participants comprised a mix of government officials, researchers, practitioners, NGO heads and students.

During the course of the workshop, the participants had the opportunity to learn and exchange ideas with experts from CERN, CAS, UNEP-IEMP among others. They also received China’s experiences and lessons learnt on ecosystem-based adaptation in the past decades, which enhanced their understanding of how scientific approaches and ecosystem management strategies can help developing countries adapt to climate change.

## Diverse Voices

*“The workshop has broadened my knowledge and skills significantly. The Centre’s flagship programme on Climate, Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CEL) is interesting given that Seychelles has already embarked on the EbA South journey and workshop module will help me understand the concept in a better way.”*

**Ricky Nigel Simeon, Seychelles**

*“After this informative training session, we are collaborating with UNEP-IEMP and Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography to receive their technical expertise and research assistance in introducing bio-saline agriculture for people of Thar to improve their livelihoods.”*

**Hassan Ahmad Khawaja, Pakistan**

*I had a wonderful experience in this workshop, and look forward to joining hands with UNEP-IEMP for long-term research programmes.”*

**Bayarhuu Batbaya, Mongolia**

*“Through this training, I was exposed to different expertise and knowledge on ecosystem management technology and restoration of semi-arid areas in China.”*

**Guy Marius Assogba, Benin**



Dr. Jian Liu, Director, UNEP-IEMP addressing the participants of the workshop in Beijing, China. Photo: CERN Secretariat

The participants unanimously felt that the proceedings have immensely contributed to their skills and expertise. They also discussed the new avenues for future collaboration, and expressed deep interest in sharing the knowledge, research and information gathered in their respective country.

They also explored various opportunities to collaborate with UNEP-IEMP and CERN, including staff exchange programmes and post-doctoral position within Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), joint research project application on EbA, collaboration with Africa on the ‘Great Green Wall’ initiative in Senegal; dust storms monitoring and its prevention measures in West Asia; further capacity building on Geographic Information System & Remote Sensing in Seychelles; and building sustainable green farms in Pakistan etc.

## UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership secures five CAS-PIFI fellowships

UNEP-IEMP was granted five Chinese Academy of Sciences-President's International Fellowship Initiative (CAS PIFI) fellowships for researchers from developing countries. The Centre went through a stringent international recruitment process to select these 5 researchers. The most meritorious candidates prepared research proposals with CAS professors to apply for the PIFI application. Recently, CAS PIFI review panel approved these applications based on global competition. Five research fellows- two from Ethiopia and one each from Kenya, Malaysia and Nepal will be joining UNEP-IEMP team early 2017. They will contribute to flagship programme CEL and further strengthen Centre's work on South-South cooperation. Since its inception, UNEP-IEMP has been granted 7 international fellowships by CAS providing a unique opportunity to share best practices, strengthen knowledge, lend expertise and forge partnerships with each other. The research fellows have actively contributed in shaping the South-South Cooperation initiative by working closely with different partners. The Centre is committed to sustain this momentum of engaging international researchers from the developing countries. CAS offers several international fellowships collectively called the "CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI)." The fellowships support highly qualified international scientists and postgraduate students to work and study at CAS affiliated institutions and strengthen their scientific collaboration with CAS researchers. The PIFI program is available under four categories for international researchers and students from across the globe: distinguished scientists, visiting scientists, postdoctoral researchers and international Ph.D students.



# UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership

*Working in 4 regions & 17 countries-the magic of Partnership*









# INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Photo Credit: Liang Wu

# Working at UN Environment International Ecosystem Management Partnership

UN Environment China Office and UNEP-IEMP team held its annual joint retreat in July 2016 aiming to enhance efficiency and deliver better services collectively. The retreat began with a video speech of the new UN Environment Executive Director Mr. Erik Solheim. Both offices reviewed achievements and progress made, emerging opportunities and discussed the areas for both teams to work together in achieving UN Environment goals with its comparative advantages. Both offices jointly identified priority areas to enhance UN Environment's visibility and impact in China and the global South. These areas include: a) accessing GEF 7 resources, especially through regional projects b) support China's 'Belt and Road' initiative c) joint outreach in both English and Chinese to enhance UN Environment's visibility in China and globally d) Knowledge sharing to communicate China and global South experiences. As 2016 marks UNEP-IEMP entering its fully operational phase and transitioning to a 'programme-based' Centre, the retreat also focused on discussing the implementation of CEL under the new delivery mechanism with four restructured offices: Operations, Internationally funded Programme, China-funded Programme and a Research Unit. While reviewing key decisions and recommendations from the fourth Steering Committee and second Science Advisory Group,



UNEP-IEMP and UNEP China Office Team at the Annual Retreat 2016. Photo: Liuzuo Guo

retreat allowed the team to reflect on follow-up actions of the strategic directions provided. Several group discussions were organized to allow each member to better position their roles in the transition phase.

## The Team



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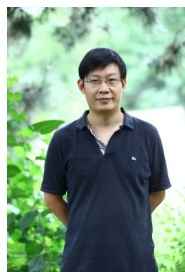
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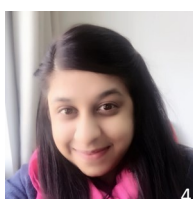
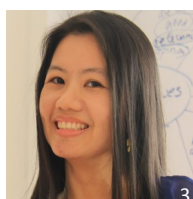
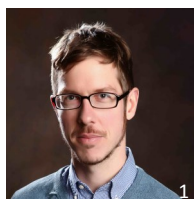
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